

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PRS-01 /030 W  
----- 089160 /14Z

R 220519Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9544  
INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY  
AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL PERTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, AS  
SUBJECT: TRADES HALL COUNCIL JOINS VICTORIAN GOVT IN ENDORSING  
COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON NEWPORT POWER STATION

1. VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL (VTHC) VOTED 224 TO 69  
DEC. 21 TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON NEWPORT WHICH  
VICTORIAN GOVT HAD ALREADY ENDORSED DEC. 16.
2. PROPOSAL AS RESUBMITTED DEC. 16 BY STATE LABOR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE FOLLOWING GOVT'S REJECTION OF INITIAL COMPROMISE  
FORMULA IN NOV. COMMITS BOTH SIDES TO ABIDE BY  
DECISION DUE BY MARCH 15 OF FOUR MAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
TO BE SET UP TO LOOK INTO ALL ASPECTS OF NEWPORT CONTROVERSY  
(INCLUDING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITES). COMMISSION WILL  
BE COMPOSED OF FOLLOWING:  
FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR OF MONASH UNIVERSITY, SIR LOUIS  
MATHESON (CHAIRMAN); CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRO-  
TECTION AUTHORITY, MR. JACK FRASER; PRESIDENT OF TRADES  
HALL COUNCIL, MR. JACK ELLIS; CHAIRMAN OF GAS AND FUEL  
CORPORATION, MR. NEIL SMITH.

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EM CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PROMPTED LARGE NUMBER OF LEFT-  
WING VTHC DELEGATES TO JOIN MODERATE AND RIGHT-WING  
ELEMENTS IN SUPPORTING COMPROMISE PROPOSAL INCLUDED (A)  
FEAR THAT GOVT WOULD SOON PROCLAIM AND BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT  
VITAL STATE PROJECTS BILL, (B) FEAR THAT GOVT WOULD SOON

ANNOUNCE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR "SECOND PHASE" SUSPENSION  
IN PUBLIC WORKS, (C) AWARENESS THAT SUBSTANTIAL PRO-  
NEWPORT SENTIMENT EXISTS WITHIN THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS.

4. AGREEMENT ON COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ENSURES THAT GOVT  
WILL NOT PROCLAIM VITAL STATE PROJECTS BILL AT THIS TIME  
AND WILL RESCIND "FIRST PHASE" SUSPENSION OF 288 PROJECTS  
WORTH 417 MILLION DOLLARS ANNOUNCED NOV. 23.

5. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE GOVT WOULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO  
LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL IF IT WERE  
NOT CONFIDENT THAT COMMISSION WOULD SUBMIT PRO-NEWPORT  
REPORT. IF OBSERVERS ARE RIGHT VTHC ENDORESMENT OF  
PROPOSAL REPRESENTS MAJOR VICTORY FOR GOVT AND VTHC  
MODERATES OVER LEFT-WING OF VICTORIAN TRADE UNION  
MOVEMENT. PERCIVAL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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